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LEVEL news

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May Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term May average:

Great Lakes Basin	127%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	140%
Lake Superior	112%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	123%
Lake Ontario	152%

Note: These figures

Volume 10, Number 6 **June 7, 2002**

Seasonal Rise Continues on All Lakes ...But Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario are Nearing Their Annual Peaks

Monthly mean water levels on all of the Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair increased from April to May. Water levels on all lakes are expected to rise during June; however, lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario are likely nearing their annual peaks.

Monthly mean water levels on lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, St. Clair and Erie rose by about their usual amounts from April to May, increasing by 9 to 13 cm. Lake Ontario's level increased more than usual during the same period of time, increasing 24 cm. Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair began June about 15, 30 and 9 cm below average, respectively. Lakes Erie and Ontario began the month 2 and 27 cm above average, respectively. Lake Superior began June at about the same level as it was last year. Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair and Erie began the month 19 to 24 cm higher than they were one year ago, while Lake Ontario was 34 cm higher.

Montréal Harbour's monthly mean water level was 7.17 m during May, 11 cm below its period-of-record average level for the month, but well above its Chart Datum level and 117 cm higher than it was during May 2001.

Lake Ontario Outflow Strategy

Between May 18th and 31st, Lake Ontario's outflow was set 150 m3/s greater than called for by the lake's regulation plan, Plan 1958-D. On June 1st, the over-discharge was increased to 300 m3/s. The over-discharge is expected to end later in June once Lake Ontario's level has peaked. These over-discharges will reduce some of the 7.9 cm of water previously retained on Lake Ontario, but leave a few centimetres on the lake to help meet hydropower generation and downstream navigation needs later this year.

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control (the Board) is closely monitoring water supply and level conditions in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence system and will update its regulation strategy if conditions warrant it. Up-to-date information can be found on the Board's website.

are preliminary.

May Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term May average

Lake Superior 95%

Lake Erie 101%

Lake Huron 88%

Lake Ontario 102%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

Be Up-to-date

Recreational boaters on the Great Lakes, connecting channels and St. Lawrence River should keep informed of current conditions before setting out. Be sure you have up-to-date navigation charts and know how water levels compare to Chart Datum whenever and wherever you cruise or sail. Present water levels on the Great Lakes and upper St. Lawrence River are available by telephone from a network of gauging stations operated by the Canadian Hydrographic Service. Watch next month's edition of LEVELnews for information on accessing water level data at selected gauges on the lower St. Lawrence River and on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes.

Accessing Water Level Data by Telephone

Present water levels on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are available from a network of gauging stations operated by the Canadian Hydrographic Service. Phone numbers for the stations are listed below. When you call a particular station, the answering equipment will ask you to press 1 for English or 2 for French, on the keypad of your touch-tone phone. If you do not have a touch-tone phone, the message will start after a few seconds delay. The present water level is given in metres relative to chart datum at that station. Next the message gives the high and low water levels recorded during the previous 12 hours, followed by the elevation of chart datum. You can press 1 or 2 at any time during the message to have it start again, or press 0 to end the call.

Lake Superior	at Thunder Bay	(807) 344-3141
	at Rossport	(807) 824-2250
	at Michipicoten	(705) 856-0077
	at Gros Cap	(705) 779-2052
St. Marys River	above the lock	(705) 949-2066
	below the lock	(705) 254-7989
North Channel	at Thessalon	(705) 842-2215
	at Little Current	(705) 368-3695
Georgian Bay	at Parry Sound	(705) 746-6544
	at Collingwood	(705) 445-8737
Lake Huron	at Tobermory	(519) 596-2085
	at Goderich	(519) 524-8058
St. Clair River	at Point Edward	(519) 344-0263
	at Port Lambton	(519) 677-4092
Lake St. Clair	at Belle River	(519) 728-2882

Detroit River	at Amherstburg	(519) 736-4357
Lake Erie	at Bar Point	(519) 736-7488
	at Kingsville	(519) 733-4417
	at Erieau	(519) 676-1915
	at Port Stanley	(519) 782-3866
	at Port Dover	(519) 583-2259
	at Port Colborne	905-835-2501
Lake Ontario	at Port Weller	905-646-9568
	at Burlington	905-544-5610
	at Toronto	416-868-6026
	at Cobourg	905-372-6214
	at Kingston	(613) 544-9264
St. Lawrence River	at Brockville	(613) 345-0095
	at Iroquois above lock	(613) 652-4426
	at Iroquois below lock	(613) 652-4839
	at Morrisburg	(613) 543-3361
	at Cornwall	(613) 930-9373
	at Summerstown	(613) 931-2089

Please call (905) 336-4844, fax: (905) 336-8916, or e-mail: solvasonr@dfo-mpo.gc.ca to report any problems or to obtain additional information.

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Webmaster
Last Updated: 2002-06-28
Last Reviewed: 2002-06-28

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URL: http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/level-news/ln200206_e.html